

I think it is shameful and the worst kind of sleazy political maneuvering for Sinclair Broadcasting to preempt regular broadcasting shortly before the election to show a smear piece on Kerry. It's the height of hypocrisy when Sinclair is the company that refused to air the program naming the service people killed in Iraq because it was just too politically charged.

If you will not put a halt to this travesty, then as one of the owners of the air waves, I insist you honor equal time requirements and mandate that Sinclair also show the pro-Kerry piece Up the River.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.